Library

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

(L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.San.I.)

1955

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.)

INCLUDING THE REPORT OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

(L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.San.I.)

1955

Bennett & Sons, Printers, Todmorden

MINISTRY OF HEALTH
LIBRARY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

		PAGE
Members of Health Committee	... ...	3
Staff of the Public Health Department	... ...	4
Introduction	... ...	6
Section I—	Vital Statistics and Social Conditions ...	9
Section II—	General Provision of Health Services ...	13
Section III—	W.R.C.C. Preventive Health Service ...	15
Section IV—	Infectious Diseases	25
Section V—	Water Supplies	27
Section VI—	Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, Inspection and Supervision of Food, Housing	28

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

HEALTH COMMITTEE

December, 1955

CHAIRMAN
COUNCILLOR DR. S. H. BROWN

ALDERMAN L. F. COCKCROFT, J.P.
,, W. EGERTON, J.P.
,, F. SUNDERLAND

COUNCILLOR G. E. BOOTHMAN
,, A. COCKCROFT
,, H. COCKCROFT
,, J. GRAHAM
,, H. HARDY
,, H. IVESON
,, H. V. POWELL
,, E. R. SYKES

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN

Medical Officer of Health
J. LYONS, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health
NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector
†L. A. CRABTREE, C.R.SAN.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
†C. BAXTER, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk
MRS. E. E. WADDILOVE, C.R.SAN.I.

WEST RIDING COUNTY COUNCIL

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Divisional Medical Officer
As above (M.O.H.).

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer
NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer
ALICE SEELIG, M.D. (retired January, 1956).

Medical Officer to the Ante-Natal Clinic
*MILDRED M. THIERENS, M.B.

School Dental Officer
*J. I. JAGGER, L.D.S. (resigned December, 1955).

Health Visitors
‡MRS. M. M. ILLINGWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M.
‡MISS J. ALEXANDER, S.R.N., S.C.M.
‡MRS. A. LUNT, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tuberculosis Health Visitor
MRS. B. G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Health Social Worker
MISS E. C. WROE, S.R.N., R.M.N., S.C.M., H.V.

Mental Health Home Teacher (Qualified)
MRS. M. H. GRAHAM, B.A.

Home Nurses

Miss R. Stocks, s.r.n., queen's nurse (recommenced 11-2-1955).

Miss V. J. Miles, s.r.n., queen's nurse.

Mrs. G. M. Thompson (nee Pratt), s.r.n., queen's nurse (resigned 14-9-55).

Miss D. M. Boothroyd, s.r.n., queen's nurse (commenced 1-9-55).

Home Nurse/Midwife

Miss A. B. Hobson, s.r.n., s.c.m., queen's nurse,

Midwives

Miss P. Stansfield, s.c.m.

Dental Attendant

Mrs. L. Barker

Joint Clerical Staff—engaged in all constituent districts of the Division, viz. Todmorden, Hebden Royd, Hepton, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden.

H. Marshall, a.c.i.s.

Miss J. Sutcliffe

J. Greenwood.

Miss P. Jackson.

D. Howorth.

Mrs. M. Leah (resigned 4-6-55).

Miss A. Y. Allan (resigned 22-1-55).

D. Thomas.

Mrs. M. Redfern.

Mrs. J. Bailey (resigned Feb. 14th, 1955).

Miss J. Horner (commenced 17th Jan., 1955).

Miss J. E. Varley (commenced 7th Feb., 1955).

Miss B. Marshall (commenced 25th July, 1955).

* Part-time.

† Hold Meat Inspection Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute

‡ Hold Health Visitors' Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

HALIFAX AREA HOSPITALS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Consultant Staff

Orthopaedic Surgeon

G. Hyman, m.b., f.r.c.s.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon

W. O. Lodge, m.d., f.i.c.s., f.r.c.s.(edin.).

Chest Physician

Bertram Mann, b.sc., m.d., d.p.h.

Ophthalmic Surgeon

P. M. Wood, m.b., ch.b., m.r.c.p., d.o.m.s.

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre,
Todmorden.

October, 1956.

His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the ninth Annual Report since the inception of the scheme of Divisional Health Administration.

Under the Divisional Health Scheme your Medical Officer of Health is also Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and has similar functions in the Urban Districts of Hebden Royd, Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, and the Rural District of Hepton. The scheme has led to a closer integration of local authority health services.

The vital statistics for the year follow the pattern characteristic of this area. The birth rate remained low (12.4 per 1,000 population) and deaths exceeded births by no less than 58, the population falling to approximately 18,500.

Associated with this population trend is a steady increase in the proportion of aged persons in the community. The triumphs of my predecessors in preventive medicine, supplemented by advances in the standards of curative medicine and surgery, have enabled more and more persons to survive to old age. When this is accompanied by a low birth rate, as in this district, the "top-heavy" age-constitution of the population becomes particularly evident. It has, for example, been estimated that one house in every four is occupied by a single elderly person. The demands on the services of general practitioners, home nurses, health visitors and home helps are disproportionately heavy and the geography of this hilly and partly-rural Borough makes assistance far from easy to apply in many cases. The home help service in particular is handicapped by the relative inaccessibility of many houses as well as by difficulties in recruitment. On occasion, the aged persons needing most help are the ones for which we cannot provide.

The standard of housing of the older folk is, in general, below that of the rest of the community. Life is so often rendered unnecessarily difficult and hazardous by such features as defective natural lighting, inefficient or unguarded

fire grates, inadequate cooking and washing facilities, steep steps and rickety or narrow stairs, outside privies or toilets, absence of baths and washbasins, inadequate hot water, faulty gas fittings and easily frozen pipes.

This sort of environment would present a problem for young and active families. How much worse is it, then, for those weakened by age, impoverished by retirement and demoralised by frustration and loneliness? Neither an extended domiciliary service nor institutional care is the complete answer to this problem. My own experience is that the aged rarely seek institutional care before the situation has become desperate. When they *do* ultimately secure a place in a welfare home, they go only with sorrowful reluctance.

Housing authorities hold the key to the solution of this problem. The old folks should be brought back into the community, into dwellings which are easy to live in and easy to manage and where assistance, if required, can be easily given. Local Authorities, with their vested interest in the health and welfare of the community, cannot continue to postpone action indefinitely on economic grounds. Should not the community as a whole, in this era of full employment, be capable of making this investment in its own future? Is it that we cannot afford or that we do not *wish* to afford? The cost of basic essential local government services (including housing) is negligible compared with the combined cost of such luxuries as alcohol, tobacco, television, etc. The community must reconsider and revise its scale of values and then decide what are the true basic pre-requisites of health and happiness.

A more cheerful feature of the vital statistics of the Borough is the continued absence of maternal mortality. Todmorden now has the proud record of over 2,700 births without a single maternal death, a reflection of the efficiency of midwives and doctors. In order to maintain this standard of excellence and, at the same time, to reduce still further the mortality of new-born infants, the services provided by the Ante-natal Clinic at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre have been extended. They now include classes for "relaxation" exercises and health education. The young expectant mother is not only given regular and thorough medical tests and examinations but is also helped to understand the needs and problems of each stage of pregnancy and labour. She is also told of the part that she will have to play to ensure full and effective co-operation with the mid-

wife. There is no longer any need for the expectant mother to be haunted by fear or depressed by oldwives' tales.

One early result of this extension of the work of the local Ante-natal Clinic has been a marked increase in the popularity of the Clinic. During the past three or four months, attendances have increased by over 50%, in marked contrast to most other local authority ante-natal clinics where (throughout the country) attendances have declined since the inception of the National Health Service.

There was no exceptional incidence of serious infectious disease during the year under review though the number of cases of measles notified was higher than usual. The control of measles is difficult, the patient being in a very infectious condition for a day or two before the rash appears and before a diagnosis can be made. Nor is there any practicable means of conferring long-term immunity by innoculation. The modern anti-biotic and sulphonamide groups of drugs are useful in both preventing and treating some of the complications of the disease but are not effective against measles itself.

The outlook would appear to be more hopeful in relation to whooping cough, only 12 cases being notified during the year. When one recalls that whooping cough has been a prominent cause of death in infancy and is, moreover, the origin of much chronic chest trouble in adults, the decline of the disease is very welcome. This improvement is in part attributable to immunisation. Under the County Council scheme, children up to the age of four years can be immunised against whooping cough either at the local clinic or by the family doctor.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, may I thank you for your kindness, patience and co-operation? I also wish to express my deep appreciation of the consistently loyal and energetic work of the staff of this Department.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

J. LYONS,

M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

VITAL STATISTICS

Statistics.

Area. 12,790 acres.

Population—Census 1951. 19,072 persons.

Registrar General's estimate of
Resident Population, mid. 1955, 18,520.

Number of dwelling-houses, 7,166.

Rateable value £117,402.

Product of a penny rate £455-10-3.

Rainfall at Gorpley Reservoir during 1955, 42·98 inches

Summary of Vital Statistics.

	Total	M	F	
Live Births– Legitimate Illegitimate	215 14	96 8	119 6	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 12·4
Still Births- Legitimate Illegitimate	10 —	5 —	5 —	Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births 41·8
Deaths	287	131	156	Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population 15·5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES—

	Deaths	Death Rate per 1000 total (live and still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	... Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	... Nil

Infantile Mortality.

Eight infants under the age of twelve months died during 1955, giving an infantile mortality rate of 34.9 per 1000 births.

The following table gives the cause of death of these infants.

Cause of Death	No. of infants dying in				
	1st week	2nd week	3rd week	4th week	5—52 week
Atalectasis	3	—	—	—	—
Congenital Heart disease ...	1	—	—	—	—
Haemangioma of Scrotum... ...	—	—	—	—	1
Birth injury ...	—	—	—	—	1
Burns	1	—	—	—	—
Lobar pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1

DEATHS FROM	Cancer (all ages)	42
	Measles (all ages)	Nil
	Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil

Tuberculosis Death Rate (all forms)	0.16
Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate	0.16
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis death rate	Nil
Respiratory Death Rate (excluding tuberculosis)	1.40

CAUSES OF DEATH IN TODMORDEN, M.B.

	CAUSE OF DEATH	1954 M.	1954 F.	1955 M.	1955 F.
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	2	1	2
2	Tuberculosis, other ...	—	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	—	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—
8	Measles	—	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	3	3
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	2	3	4
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	3	—	4
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6	—	1
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	13	13	8
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	—	2	1
16	Diabetes	1	3	1	4
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	15	17	16	42
18	Coronary disease, angina ...	23	13	27	13
19	Hypertension with heart disease	4	4	2	5
20	Other heart disease	10	11	12	20
21	Other circulatory disease ...	9	9	6	15
22	Influenza	—	—	1	2
23	Pneumonia	3	5	4	2
24	Bronchitis	10	5	11	4
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2	—	2	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	2	2	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	1	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	5	3	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	5	—	4	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion...	—	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformation ...	1	2	—	1
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	11	12	9
33	Motor vehicle accidents ...	1	3	—	—
34	All other accidents	—	5	3	10
35	Suicide	1	2	3	2
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL ALL CAUSES ...	116	127	131	156

PRINCIPAL VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1955

based on the Registrar-General's Figures

	Todmorden M.B.	Hepton R.D.	Hebden Royd U.D	Sowerby Bridge U.D.	Ripponden U.D.	Aggregate West Riding Urban Districts	West Riding Administrative County	England and Wales (provisional figures)
Birth Rate (per 1,000 estimated population) ...	12.4	16.0	12.8	15.4	9.8	14.8	15.3	15.0
Death Rates (all per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All causes	15.5	14.5	16.8	12.6	12.7	12.5	11.7	11.7
Infective and parasitic diseases*	—	0.25	0.10	0.05	—	0.06	0.07	**
Tuberculosis of respiratory system... ...	0.16	—	0.10	0.11	—	0.11	0.11	0.13
Other forms of tuberculosis...	—	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.01	0.02
Cancer...	2.27	3.19	3.52	2.06	1.35	2.03	1.90	2.06
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	3.13	2.70	2.31	1.57	2.32	2.09	1.90	**
Heart and circulatory diseases‡	5.40	5.41	7.34	5.21	6.37	4.71	4.39	**
Respiratory disease† (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	1.40	1.72	1.21	1.09	0.97	1.28	1.21	**
Infant Mortality (deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	34.9	46.2	15.7	14.1	—	25.2	26.2	24.9
Maternal Mortality (deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 live and still-births) ...	—	—	—	—	—	0.45	0.67	0.64

* Combined death rate from syphilitic diseases, diphtheria, whooping cough, meningococcal infections, acute poliomyelitis, measles, and other infective and parasitic diseases (items 3 to 9 inclusive on page 11)

‡ Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system (items 18 to 21 inclusive on page 11)

† Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system (items 22 to 25 inclusive on page 11)

SECTION II.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

A. HOSPITALS.

There is no General Hospital in the Borough of Todmorden. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, the Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Infectious Diseases Hospital, Shelf Sanatorium, Todmorden Fielden Hospital (for long stay medical cases in children), and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mental defectives).

During 1955 the maternity work at the Royal Halifax Infirmary was discontinued and beds are now only available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special Hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required ; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospital Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

B. AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The West Riding County Council maintain an Ambulance Depot at Stansfield Road, Todmorden, with an establishment at the end of 1955 of a Depot Superintendent, eleven full-time Driver-Attendants, a Clerk/Telephonist and four vehicles. The area served covers Todmorden Borough, part of Hebden Royd U.D. area and the Hepton Rural District.

C. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service (directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health) at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds.

D. ISSUE OF ANTI-TOXIN, ETC.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Halifax General Hospital for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Medical Centre, Todmorden, for use of local medical practitioners in the division. A supply of reagents for diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation is also available free of charge to private practitioners who have undertaken to participate in the West Riding County Council's schemes of immunisation.

SECTION III.

W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE

A. CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre ...	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Vale Baptist Sunday School, Cornholme	Tuesdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.
Walsden Wesley Sunday School ...	Thursdays	2 to 4-30 p.m.

Ante-Natal and Post Natal

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre ...	Wednesdays and Thursdays ...	1-30 to 4 p.m.

School Clinics

Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre

(*a*) *Minor Ailments	Mondays to Fridays inclusive ...	1-30 p.m.
(*b*) Dental...	Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays	9-15 to 11-30 a.m.
(*c*) Ophthalmic	As required	By arrangement
(*d*) Ear, Nose and Throat	As required	By arrangement
(*e*) Artificial Sunlight	Mondays and Fridays	By arrangement

Smallpox Vaccination

Diphtheria Immunisation

Whooping Cough Immunisation

All Infant Welfare Centres	As required	By arrangement

Tuberculosis (by arrangement with Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee)

Union Offices, Hall Street	Wednesdays	1-30 to 4-30 p.m.

* Medical Officer in attendance Wednesdays only.

B. CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

Ante Natal Services

During 1955 Dr. Thierens held 102 sessions and 165 patients made 847 attendances. The popularity of the clinic is shown in the table below :—

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of patients	200	162	158	148	159	165
No. of attendances	1060	805	737	817	882	847
No. of sessions held	102	96	100	98	102	102
Patients sent by Midwives	30	23	5	8	12	14
Patients sent by Doctors	5	3	19	17	18	32
Patients sent by Health Visitors	20	14	9	12	29	22
Patients attended on own initiative	135	100	114	88	75	78
Patients sent by Hospitals	10	22	11	23	25	19
Patients referred to own doctor	20	6	9	20	24	18
Patients referred to Hospital	24	22	32	21	25	26
Patients referred to Dentist	9	26	6	10	31	48
Patients given U.V.R. treatment	—	—	5	4	1	—

X-ray examinations were arranged for three patients who had attended the Ante-Natal Clinic during the year.

Post Natal and Gynaecological Clinics.

Gynaecological and post-natal patients are examined at the ordinary ante-natal clinic. During 1955, 83 patients made 124 attendances at the clinic. Some of the patients confined in Halifax General Hospital attended there for post-natal examination.

	1952	1953	1954	1955
No. of post-natal patients ...	79	81	64	83
No. of attendances	139	134	102	124

Child Welfare Clinics.

Clinics were held at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons, and at Cornholme and Walsden on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons respectively. A record of the work done in 1955 is given in the following table :—

	Medical Centre	Wals-den	Corn-holme	Total
No. of sessions ..	101	52	50	203
No. of children who attended :—				
(a) Under 1 year old	105	51	37	193
(b) 1-5 years of age	197	142	79	418
No. of attendances by children :—				
(a) Under 1 year ..	1721	855	885	3461
(b) 1-5 years ..	882	651	773	2306
Total attendances	2603	1506	1658	5767
Average attendance per session ..	25	28	33	28

Home Visiting by Health Visitors.

No. of Ante-Natal Visits :—	
First Visits	97
Subsequent Visits	145
No. of Visits to Children under 1 Year	
First Visits	225
Subsequent Visits	1350
No. of Visits to Children 1-5 Years ..	3092
Special Visits	2539
Total Home Visits ..	7448

Day Nursery Accommodation

The Glen Day Nursery was opened by the West Riding County Council on 11th September, 1950, and children may be admitted under a system of priorities by arrangement with the Divisional Medical Officer.

The Care of Premature Infants.

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them.

The Care of Illegitimate Children.

Every effort is made to find a suitable home for the baby either with the mother or with the grand-parents. When the child is old enough it can be admitted to a Day Nursery if the mother has to go out to work. Special advice about legal adoption is given if it is desired. These cases are seen in the home by the Health Visitor and encouraged to attend the Infant Welfare Centre regularly.

Minor Ailments Clinic.

During 1955 37 children under five years of age, some of whom were attending nursery classes, made 59 attendances for treatment at the Medical Centre.

U. V. L. Clinic.

This was held twice weekly at the Medical Centre during the winter months. A Sollux Mercury Vapour Lamp was used. 20 children not attending school, made 205 attendances for treatment.

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.

Most proprietary brands of milk and other infant foods are sold at the Child Welfare Clinics for the convenience of mothers and special brands of milk are ordered when necessary.

In addition the distribution of cod liver oil, orange juice, vitamin A and D tablets, and National Dried Milk, is carried out at the three Child Welfare Clinics on behalf of the Ministry of Food. The Ministry of Labour and National Service ceased to distribute these Welfare Foods on 30th June, 1954 and a full-time counter-service was instituted at the Abraham Ormerod Medical Centre.

Provision of Maternity Outfits.

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

C. PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

Home Nursing.

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing in Todmorden, the two whole-time nurses being resident at the Nurses' Home, Garden Street, Todmorden. In addition, a Home Nurse/Midwife has been responsible for the Cornholme etc., district. In April 1955 this nurse became a whole-time midwife and a further whole-time Home Nurse was appointed, and took up residence in the Nurses Home.

Midwifery.

From April 1955 two whole-time midwives (resident in their own homes) were employed by the County Council to serve the Todmorden area.

The following table shows the number of Todmorden women confined in hospital, private nursing home, or delivered by midwives and private practitioners in Todmorden or elsewhere so far as has been ascertained :

	No.	%
No. delivered in hospital	133	55·7
No. delivered in private nursing homes ...	2	·8
No. delivered by midwives...	104	43·5
No. delivered by doctors (including the difficult cases met with by municipal midwives in their practice where a doctor had to be sent for to effect delivery)	—	—
TOTAL (including stillbirths), so far as has been ascertained ...	239	100.0

During 1955 the practising midwives summoned medical assistance to 20 mothers and 4 infants. Medical aid was sent for on account of the following conditions :—

MOTHERS		INFANTS	
Cause	No.	Cause	No.
Ruptured perineum ...	11	Discharge from eyes ...	1
Prolonged labour... ...	2	Prematurity	1
Pyrexia	1	Unsatisfactory condition	1
Uterine Inertia	1	Discharge from nostrils	1
Toxaemia	1		
Varicose Vein	1		
Phlebitis	1		
Malpresentation	2		
TOTAL	20	TOTAL	4

The following table summarises the midwifery work of the district midwives for the year 1955 :—

Work done within the Borough	Two WRCC Midwives
No. of deliveries made by Midwives ...	104
No. of difficult cases met with by midwives where a doctor had to be sent for and who	
(*a*) Effected delivery	—
(*b*) Sent patient to Hospital ...	1
No. of cases where midwives acted as a maternity nurse	—
Medical aid sent for in case of	
(*a*) Mothers	20
(*b*) Infants	4

Emergency Obstetric Unit.

The " flying squad " attached to Halifax General Hospital is available for obstetric emergencies occurring in the town.

Analgesia.

Both midwives are trained in the administration of gas and air analgesia and provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.

D. HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

E. HOME HELPS

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1955 147 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 109 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 18,266.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provide domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged or a child not over compulsory school age."

Of the 147 cases attended in 1955, Home Helps were provided for the following reasons: 6 illness, 26 maternity, and 115 chronic sick.

F. CARE AND AFTER CARE

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or defect, venereal disease, and other illnesses.

G. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

Number of schools in district		16
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1955		2720
Number of children examined at school during 1955		1484
(This figure being made up as follows)		
Routine examinations	848	
Re-examinations	636	
Number of children referred for treatment		37

Minor Ailments Clinic

277 children made 1,385 attendances at the minor ailments clinic during the year.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic

Four sessions were held by Mr. Lodge at the Medical Centre and 55 Todmorden children were seen by him. Of the children inspected at these and previous sessions 25 received operative treatment at the Halifax Royal Infirmary during 1955.

Dental Clinic.

During the year 81 Dental Clinics were held. The following table gives a record of the work done:

DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT	
Number of children inspected	715
Number of children offered treatment ...	511
Number of children treated	318
Number of attendances	498
NUMBER OF EXTRACTIONS	
Temporary teeth	626
Permanent teeth	70
NUMBER OF FILLINGS	
Temporary teeth	77
Permanent teeth	137
NUMBER OF OTHER OPERATIONS	
Temporary	50
Permanent	32

Ophthalmic Clinic.

Mr. Wood held 24 eye clinics during the year, and 192 Todmorden school children were seen by him and glasses were prescribed where necessary.

U.V.L. Clinic.

45 school children made 394 attendances during the year.

H. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against small-pox may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

Diphtheria Immunisation

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation, 1955

Age	0–1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Began and completed injections 1955 ...	68	73	6	5	4	6	3	5	6	5	4	—	—	—	11
Total ... 196															
Immunised in previous years, re-treated 1955 ...	—	—	—	—	26	68	48	30	23	20	9	6	2	—	—
Total ... 232															

(ii) Number of children in Todmorden who had completed a full course of Diphtheria Immunisation at any time to 31-12-55

Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	Total under 15
68	162	160	225	222	1204	1172	3213

Estimated mid-year population 3916 under 15 years

Whooping Cough Immunisation

(i) Number of children in Todmorden who completed a full course of whooping cough immunisation, 1955

Age at final injection	Under 6 mths.	6 mths. to 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	Total
No. immunised	13	100	28	14	7	162

During the year there were 2 notified cases of whooping cough. None of the children concerned had completed the full course of immunisation.

(ii) Immunisation in relation to child population

Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date

Age at 31-12-55 i.e., born in year	Under 1 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5 1950	6 1949	7 1948	Total
No. immunised	34	127	130	55	76	96	63	48	629

Vaccination against Smallpox.

During the year 113 people were vaccinated against smallpox, 66 of whom were children under one year of age.

SECTION IV.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received during 1955.

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	13
Whooping Cough	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	1
Measles	488
Diphtheria	—
Acute pneumonia	15
Dysentery	10
Smallpox	—
Acute encephalitis	—
Enteric or Typhoid fever	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—
Erysipelas	2
Meningococcal infection	—
Food poisoning	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	6
Other forms of Tuberculosis	3
	542

Tuberculosis Services.

A clinic is held weekly on Wednesday afternoons at Hall Street, and cases requiring X-ray examination are referred to the Chest Clinic at Halifax Royal Infirmary. Regular home supervision is carried out by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. Free milk, bedding, shelters, etc., are provided by the County Council at the discretion of the Divisional Medical Officer if recommended by the Consultant Chest Physician in charge of the Clinic.

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis in Todmorden in 1955:—

	Respiratory			Non-Resp.			Ttls.
	M	F	Ttl.	M	F	Ttl.	
No. on Register on 1st Jan., 1955 ..	59	41	100	16	13	29	129
No. first notified during 1955 ..	4	2	6	—	3	3	9
No. of cases restored to register ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
No. of cases entered in Register other than by notification ..	2	2	4	—	—	—	4
No. removed from Register during 1955 :—							
(a) Died	1	2	3	—	1	1	4
(b) Removed from district ..	7	3	10	1	—	1	11
(c) Recovered ..	2	2	4	4	2	6	10
No remaining on Register 31/12/55 ..	55	38	93	11	13	24	117

The number of new cases and the number of deaths notified during 1955 are given in detail in the following table :—

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0–5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5–14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15–24	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
25–44	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
45–64	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
65 & over	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Totals	4	2	—	3	1	2	—	1

SECTION V.

WATER SUPPLIES

Corporation Supply.

Serving 5666 houses with a population of 14,640.

The water is from upland surfaces and is naturally soft and of an acid character. The water is treated by slow filtration through sand and lime dust. A chlorinator is installed at the waterworks. A bulk supply of water is also obtained from the Rochdale Corporation.

Samples of water before and after treatment were taken during the year with the following results:

Bacteriological	21 satisfactory, 2 unsatisfactory.
Chemical ...	10 satisfactory, 3 unsatisfactory.
Plumbo-solvency	4—no lead in any.

The two unsatisfactory bacteriological samples were obtained from the reservoir, i.e. before filtration and chlorination. The three unsatisfactory chemical reports were on samples taken from the water obtained from the Rochdale Corporation and the Analyst reported that the water was of good organic quality but contained excessive amounts of iron, manganese and aluminium.

Private Supplies.

Serving 1,500 houses with a population of 3,880.

The supplies are derived mainly from springs, the water generally being conveyed to storage chambers from which it is piped to the houses.

Thirty-four samples were taken in the course of routine sampling from 17 of the private supplies in various parts of the Borough and with 4 exceptions were satisfactory. Subsequent samples obtained from these supplies were satisfactory. Samples were taken from the supplies to two farms in connection with proposals to improve these supplies.

Two private supplies were also tested for plumbo-solvency with negative results in each case.

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

HOUSING.

Rainfall for 1955 (Fielden Hospital).

January ..	3.08 ins.	September ..	3.01 ins.
February ..	3.22 ,,	October ..	3.06 ,,
March	2.45 ,,	November ..	3.06 ,,
April	2.05 ,,	December ..	6.13 ,,
May	4.27 ,,		
June	3.35 ,,		35.95
July	1.17 ,,		
August ..	1.10 ,,		

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions of the sewerage system were made to provide for 76 houses at the Hallroyd Housing Estate and to Lower Laithe for five houses.

Defective sewers are improved as required but no major works of repair or improvement were carried out during the year.

All sewage is treated at the Corporation Sewage Works which are adequate for the needs of the Borough.

There have been no complaints from the West Riding Rivers Board in respect of the effluent from the Sewage Works.

Rivers and Streams.

No action has been taken during the year to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Closet Accommodation.

The following table shows the number of the various types of closets in the Borough :—

Privies with covered middens		..	..about 70
Pail or Tub Closets	(a) Houses	..	.. 389
	(b) Workplaces		.. 26
TOTAL	.. ..	..	415
Water Closets	(a) Houses	.. ..	.. 5816
	(b) Workplaces	..	.. 666
TOTAL	.. .. ..	..	6482
Waste Water Closets	.. .. ..	..	215

Number of additional Closets provided :—
Old property (a) W.C.'s 14 (b) Others 0
New houses (a) W.C.'s 67 (b) Others 0
Number of Closets, other than privies, reconstructed as W.C.'s—19.

With a view to securing the conversion of pail closets and slop closets to water closets the Corporation contribute one-half of the cost of conversion to a maximum of £10 per closet.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

In September a Lewin 10/20 cubic yard Refuse Collector (on an Albion chassis) was delivered and brought into use, replacing an 8/16 cubic yard vehicle of the same make on an Austin chassis which had been in use continuously since August 1948. The collection of refuse, including nightsoil, is done by this vehicle and the Dennis Refuse Collector, both being used full time on the work, providing for a weekly collection in the Borough, except for certain outlying districts where a fortnightly collection is made. The collection of nightsoil is done by the Dennis vehicle fitted with a movable tank and the contents are disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works.

All the refuse is disposed of at Woodhouse Tip where the system of "controlled tipping" combined with salvage recovery is in operation. The salvage recovery comprises the collection

and, where necessary, the sorting from the refuse of various materials such as waste paper, scrap metals, rags, carpets. Almost all the waste paper is collected separately during the collection of refuse, in addition to which there is a special collection from factories and business premises.

The weight of refuse collected during the year was 3992 tons, and the cost of collection and disposal was £7,840. The income from the sale of salvaged materials, charges for tipping, etc., was £2,471, giving a net cost for collection and disposal of refuse of £5,369.

The following are the various items of salvage recovered during the year, with the proceeds.

	Tons	£	s.	d.
Waste paper	254 ...	2062	15	6
Ferrous metals	10¾ ...	39	0	6
Non-ferrous metals	1¼ ...	110	2	6
Textiles (rags, carpets, etc.) ...	9¾ ...	148	5	0
TOTAL ...	275¾ ...	£2360	3	6

In comparison with the previous year the total weight of salvage recovered shows an increase of 10¾ tons, waste paper being 15 tons more and non-ferrous metal showing a slight increase. Ferrous metal and textiles showed decreases of 2¾ and 1¼ tons respectively.

There was a steady demand for our output of baled waste paper and the selling price was increased twice by ten shillings per ton in the early part of the year, but in November there was a reduction of ten shillings.

The payment by the Council of incentive bonus for the employees of the Scavenging Department was continued during the year.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1955, for Nuisances only	188
Nuisances found in 1955	101
Nuisances in hand, end of 1954	10
Total needing abatement	111
Abated during 1955	102
Outstanding, end of 1955	9
Notices served, Informal	83
Complied with	81
Notices served, Statutory	—
Complied with	—
Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings	—

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades, &c.	No. in District.	No. on Register.	No. of Inspections.	General Conditions	Legal proceedings if any
Common Lodging Houses ..	0	0	0		
Houses let in Lodgings	0	0	0		
Canal Boats	0	0	0		
Knackers Yards ..	0	0	0		
Tents, Vans & Sheds	3	3	3		
Offensive Trades—					
2 Tripe Boilers 1 Fat Melter 6 Dressing Hides for Pickers or Tanners.	9	9	3	Satisfactory	None

Eradication of Bed Bug.

No instances of bug infestation of houses, either Council or other, were found during the year.

Factories and Workplaces.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES with mechanical power ...	35	None	None
FACTORIES without mechanical power	7	1	None
OTHER PREMISES under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)...	3	None	None
TOTAL	45	1	None

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars (1)	Number of Defects: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	1	1	None	None
Overcrowding (S.2)	None			
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	None			
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	None			
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)...	None			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—				
insufficient	—	—	—	
unsuitable or defective ...	2	1	—	
not separate for sexes ...	None	—	—	
Other offences	None	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	2	None	None

Summary of the Work Done during 1955.

Inspections of Premises—

For nuisances, etc.	236
Where infectious disease has occurred ...	30
Where offensive trades are carried on ...	3
Inspections of Factories	17
Inspections of Bakehouses	28
Inspections of Ice Cream premises and shops	17
Inspections under Rats and Mice Destruction Act	71
Inspections of Slaughterhouses	152
Inspections of Water Supplies	7
Inspections of Work in Progress	73
Inspections under the Housing Acts ...	102
Inspections under Housing Act (Overcrowding)	3
Re-inspections under the Housing Acts ...	28
Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	43
Inspections under Public Health Acts ...	12
Inspections under Closet Conversion Scheme	17
Inspections of Food Premises and Shops ...	53
Total Visits...	892

No. of houses disinfected after	
(1) infectious disease	2
(2) tuberculosis	3
Smoke test applied to drains	6
Smoke observations taken	57
Samples of water taken for analysis ...	13
Samples of water taken for bacteriological examination	59
Samples of water taken for chemical analysis	13
Samples of ice cream taken for bacteriological examination	15
Samples of milk taken for bacteriological examination	32
No. of complaints investigated	169
Cases abated under preliminary notice ...	121
Cases abated under statutory notice ...	2
Cases dealt with under Closet Conversion Scheme	17

Summary of Work Carried Out in Compliance with Notices, etc., during 1955.

House Drainage—

House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	35
New pipe drains provided	4
House drains connected to sewer	5
Drains trapped	1
Septic tank and filter provided	1

Sanitary Conveniences—

New water closets provided	14
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	8
Waste water closets converted into water closets	16
Pail closets abolished	2
Pail closets converted to water closets	1

Factories and Bakehouses—

Sanitary conveniences cleansed and repaired ...	1
New conveniences provided...	1

Houses dealt with under Housing Act and Public Health Act

Houses repaired by informal notice	16
Houses repaired by statutory notice	—
Houses closed under Order	2
Houses demolished (voluntarily)	10

Miscellaneous—

No. of cases of overcrowding abated	6
No. of condemnations of unsound food	53
Accumulations of refuse, etc., removed	1
Pollutions of water supply remedied	1
No. of dust bins sold by Health Dept.	170

Mortuary Accommodation.

For accidents	One Mortuary : two slabs.
For infectious cases, other than at hospitals ..	None
Facilities for post-mortem examination ? ..	Yes.
Mortuary accommodation sufficient ?	Yes.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of milk distributors registered 75

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGS., 1949-1953

Number of licences in force for :	Dealers	Supplementary
Pasteurised Milk	19 ...	3
Sterilised Milk	64 ...	2

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGS., 1949

Number of licences in force for	Dealers	Supplementary
Tuberculin Tested Milk ...	18 ...	2

Number of licences in force for production of milk

Tuberculin Tested	5
Accredited	1

Meat Inspection

There are three private slaughterhouses in the Borough licensed by the Council. They are situated at Bottoms, Walsden; Naylor Mill, Lydgate; and at Pavement; and the last-mentioned has not been used for slaughtering during the latter half of the year.

The following table gives the results of meat inspection at the three slaughterhouses for the six months period:

	Cattle other than cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	74	166	26	396	65
Diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	1	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	21	—	7	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	—	13.25	—	1.74	1.53
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcases condemned ...	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	7	37	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	10.81	22.28	—	—	1.53

Other Foods

The unsound food (other than meat, referred to in the preceding table) condemned during the year comprised the following: 14 lbs. of roast pork, 60 lbs. of frozen rabbits, 5 lbs. of cooked ham, 21 lbs. of fish, 10 lbs. of barley, 274 cans of meat, 57 cans of vegetables, 6 cans of fish, 4 cans of fruit and 14 packets of cheese spread.

Twenty-four samples of ordinary milk produced and distributed in the Borough were submitted to the "methylene blue" test and all the samples satisfied the test. Six samples of special designated milk—tuberculin tested, pasteurised and sterilised—were submitted for examination and they also satisfied the prescribed tests.

There are two makers of ice-cream in the Borough and ice-cream supplied by makers outside the Borough is sold at approximately 60 shops. Fifteen samples of ice-cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, 8 being in Grade I, two in Grade II, four in Grade III, and one in Grade IV. With regard to the samples in Grades III and IV investigations were made at the premises of the local maker concerned and the makers outside the Borough of the other samples were notified of the results.

Two-hundred and thirty inspections were made of premises where food is prepared or sold, including slaughterhouses, bakehouses, ice-cream manufactories, cafes, and retail shops. The premises generally were found to be in a satisfactory structural condition and in a cleanly state.

Smoke Abatement

During the year 57 observations of 30 minutes duration were taken of factory chimneys and in no case did the amount of black smoke emitted exceed the period allowed by the Byelaw of the Council. In the majority of cases no black smoke was emitted but in a few where considerable smoke was emitted visits were paid and the Engineer or Fireman seen with a view to reduction of smoke. Similar action was taken on occasions when excessive smoke was noticed during the course of other duties.

Generally speaking most of the factory chimneys are reasonably free from the emission of excessive smoke but there are some which intermittently emit too much smoke for short periods at fairly long intervals.

Rodent Control.

Investigations were made at 62 premises for rodent infestation—39 for rats and 23 for mice. The premises treated for rats included 11 houses, 5 factories, 5 food premises, the refuse tip and the river.

Treatments for mice infestation were carried out at 22 premises, including schools, food premises, factories and houses.

A further two maintenance treatments for the destruction of rats in the sewers in the Borough were carried out, and reports on these treatments were sent to the Ministry of Agriculture etc. From the results of the successive treatments it would appear there has been a gradual reduction of rats in the sewers.

Housing.

Housing Act 1936. Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954.

During the year the Council submitted their proposals for dealing with houses considered to be unfit for habitation to the Minister who approved them. The proposals provide for 499 houses to be dealt with as Clearance Areas and 79 to be dealt with as individual houses. Later the Council submitted

to the Minister their programme for dealing with a selection of these houses in the next five years and this also was approved.

To begin the programme one block of 9 houses at Burnley Road, Knotts, was declared a Clearance Area, the Cornholme Ward (No. 4), and the necessary Clearance Order was made in December. In addition 5 houses at Orange Street, Knowlwood, were dealt with as individual houses. Closing Orders being made in respect of 2 of them which were unoccupied, and undertakings by the owners of the other 3 that they would not be used for human habitation after vacation by the present tenants—an elderly person in each case—were accepted by the Council.

No further demolition of houses in the Shade Clearance Area was done, there still being 8 houses in a derelict condition to be demolished.

In addition to the houses for clearance or closing previously mentioned 24 houses were inspected. In 18 of the houses various defects such as leaking roofs and eavestroughs, defective windows, chimney flues, etc., were met with and the owners were requested by informal notice to carry out the necessary repairs. Repairs were done to 16 houses.

Improvement Grants

Forty-four houses were inspected in connection with applications and enquiries for Improvement Grants. Of the applications considered by the Housing Committee 27 were granted and 1 refused. All except 2 of the houses concerned were for owner-occupiers and the improvements were mainly the provision of bathroom with hot water supply, inside water closet and proper food store.

Certificates of Disrepair

Four applications for certificates were received, 1 of which was later withdrawn. The other 3 applications were considered by the Sub-Committee appointed for the purpose and a certificate granted in each case. On application by the owner a certificate previously granted was revoked, the house concerned having been put into a satisfactory state of repair.

Overcrowding

Six cases of overcrowding, affecting 38 persons were abated during the year, and no new cases were met with. At the end of the year 2 houses were known to be overcrowded, 2 families comprising 18 persons being affected.